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# TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH

## Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report on the proposed changes to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) prepared by the independent consultant, Mr. Francis Blanchard, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/219 of 21 December 1990 and transmitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in document A/46/482. The Advisory Committee recalls that in resolution 45/219 the General Assembly had called for the Secretary-General to appoint a high-level independent consultant to make recommendations on:

(a) The continued relevance of the mandate of the Institute, a review and assessment of all aspects of its current activities and an assessment of whether those activities could be more effectively carried out by the Institute or by other bodies in the United Nations system;

(b) The overall staffing requirements for the Institute in order to meet satisfactorily the needs of the United Nations and its Member States;

(c) The financial means for meeting those needs;

(d) The feasibility of utilizing the facilities of the Institute for the training of personnel for peace-keeping operations.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit the report to the Advisory Committee and to the Board of Trustees of the Institute for comment and to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

2. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees of UNITAR considered the report of the independent consultant at a special session held in New York from 9 to 11 September 1991.

3. During the course of its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee had the opportunity to meet with the consultant, the Executive Director of UNITAR and representatives of the Secretary-General for an exchange of views on the subject. In the paragraphs below the Advisory Committee gives its comments on the report of the consultant; the Committee will revert to the matter as required in the light of further action by the General Assembly in this regard (see para. 19 below).

4. The Advisory Committee appreciates the efforts of the consultant to address, in the time available, the concerns of the General Assembly, especially with regard to the financial situation of UNITAR and ways and means to streamline its activities. The consultant's report presents a number of recommendations aimed at restructuring the Institute and points out that major changes will have to be made to the Institute's mandate, structure and mode of financing.

5. The Advisory Committee agrees with the consultant on the need for major change; in its opinion, however, the observations of the consultant lead to a number of further questions that must be addressed before decisions can be taken on the continuation of the Institute and its restructuring.

6. The first has to do with the continued relevance of UNITAR and its appropriate role in view of the proliferation of autonomous research and training institutes within the United Nations such as the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), mentioned in paragraphs 6 to 8 and 38 to 40 of the consultant's report. While the Advisory Committee acknowledges that there are certain differences in the types of training and research carried out by these institutes, it believes that an analysis may very well reveal areas of duplication or overlap. There is a need, therefore, to determine the extent to which the various research and training programmes in the United Nations and, indeed, in the United Nations system can be rationalized with a clear and distinct role identified for UNITAR.

7. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the consultant's report recommends that the terms of reference, programmes and budgets of all research and/or training institutes with aims similar to those of UNITAR should be carefully re-examined with a long-term view to perhaps merging several of them.

8. Before a firm decision on the future of UNITAR is taken, it will also be necessary to determine the extent to which the various agencies and organizations in the United Nations and the United Nations system would be willing and able to support UNITAR as mentioned above, both in terms of a restructuring of their own programmes and a willingness to contribute to UNITAR's financial support, possibly through a redeployment of training and research resources. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out

that there are provisions for training in the budgets of the United Nations as well as those of the other organizations in the United Nations system.

9. With regard to the relevance of the mandate of the Institute, in the consultant's opinion, as reflected in paragraph 5 of the report, "some of UNITAR's training activities and functions should not only be maintained but should be expanded within a new framework more suited to the responsibilities of the United Nations and the needs of Member States". The main thrust of the proposals thus put forward in the report is for reshaping and redefining the activities of UNITAR with a view to ensuring the future viability of the Institute; those proposals should be viewed in the light of the observations of the Advisory Committee in paragraphs 5, 6 and 8 above.

10. A possible role for UNITAR could centre on a new emphasis on training activities with a focus increasingly on the disciplines of international cooperation and multilateral diplomacy and negotiation, and economic and social development. As stated by the consultant in paragraph 44 of his report, "a restructured UNITAR with a reformulated mandate, and rules of operation, could systematically develop training within the United Nations system ... this would respond to the growing requirements of many countries, especially developing countries, for training of officials and personnel involved in international cooperation in all its forms".

11. Although the Advisory Committee has no objection in principle to this concept and to the benefits that could be derived from such training, the Committee is not satisfied that UNITAR's European Office at Geneva would be "the best place from which to continue, diversify or expand training programmes", notwithstanding the fact that it would be close to other international organizations "many of which are based in ... nearby European capitals". Additionally, the validity of the argument that at Geneva the Institute's proximity to prospective major donor countries might elicit more generous support has also not been established. In any case, all considerations of cost and availability of office accommodation together with any negotiations with the host country to seek favourable conditions by way of waivers or cash contributions would have to be taken into account before a decision was made regarding relocation of the Institute to Geneva or any other location.

12. The question of training of personnel for peace-keeping operations is discussed in paragraphs 63 to 70 of the report. Although there seems to be wide scope and potential for this activity to be undertaken by a restructured UNITAR, it is the opinion of the Advisory Committee that, given the sensitive nature of peace-keeping operations, further study of the requirements of the operations vis-à-vis the facilities available within UNITAR will have to be undertaken before a decision is made on whether UNITAR can be designated the focal point within the United Nations system for training of personnel for peace-keeping operations.

13. Chapter II of the consultant's report traces the origins of the financial problems that have plagued the Institute almost since its inception and the various approaches that have been used in trying to resolve these problems.

It states in paragraph 21 that "UNITAR is in a state of crisis characterized by dwindling funds, lack of confidence on the part of traditional donor countries and some others, and failure to keep to its original objectives and to respond to the many attempts that have been made to set it back on course".

14. With regard to the financial situation of UNITAR, the Advisory Committee recalls that for the past several years the Institute has been dependent on the United Nations for an annual advance to balance its budget. In this connection, the Committee has been informed that, as at 30 September 1991, the debt of UNITAR to the United Nations reflecting previous shortfalls and deficits stood at $4,744,095 and can be estimated to reach approximately $5.1 million by the end of 1991.

15. In addition to this debt an amount of $4,416,152 was advanced by the United Nations in 1989 for the purchase of the land on which the UNITAR building stands. Under the conditions of the loan, the funds advanced for that purpose are to be repaid with interest equivalent to the average rate of investment return that would otherwise have been carried by those funds. The related amount is projected to total $0.6 million by 31 December 1991. Thus, the total indebtedness of UNITAR to the United Nations is projected to reach $10.1 million by 31 December 1991.

16. The consultant has proposed in his report and has also reconfirmed to the Advisory Committee that it is his view that, should the General Assembly decide to continue the mandate of UNITAR, albeit with its redefined aims, it would be necessary to provide an amount of $2 million per annum to UNITAR from the regular budget of the United Nations in order for the Institute to carry out successfully the activities recommended in the report, unless of course adequate funding could be assured on a regular basis through voluntary contributions or user fees. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the matter can only be addressed after the determination called for in paragraph 8 above has been made in the light of the information requested in paragraph 7. For example, if system-wide agreement for the consolidation of training activities is obtained, the resources currently being utilized by the United Nations and the specialized agencies for their existing training programmes can perhaps be redeployed, in part, towards the Institute's General Fund and operational costs fund.

17. The Advisory Committee notes the proposal in paragraph 44 of the Consultant's report that the new restructured Institute should be headed by an official at the D-2 level who "should be selected for his qualifications and experience in the field of economic and social development and of training". The Advisory Committee agrees in principle with this approach but believes that basic questions such as the ones referred to in paragraphs 5, 6 and 8 above would have to be addressed and a detailed work programme formulated, before a decision on the number and level of staff and their financing could be taken.

18. In paragraphs 45 and 46 of the report the consultant proposes that the unit "should be placed under the United Nations University", "would constitute a sort of centre" of the University at Geneva and would function in conditions

similar to those of the World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) at Helsinki, or the Institute for New Technologies at Maastricht, both of which are programmes of the United Nations University. The Advisory Committee believes that these proposals merit careful consideration and need to be further explored and expanded. Consultations with the Rector of the University and member Governments interested in providing financial and other support for the idea should be undertaken.

19. Taking into account the comments in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee believes that the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, which would, inter alia:

(a) Contain an analysis of the terms of reference, programmes and budgets and financing of all research and/or training institutes with aims similar to UNITAR;

(b) Indicate, on the basis of inter-agency consultations (including the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the extent to which a system-wide rationalization of research and training can be effected and a consequent role for UNITAR defined;

(c) Contain an analysis of the various options for the location of UNITAR;

(d) Provide further analysis and information on the feasibility of utilizing UNITAR for training in peace-keeping operations;

(e) Indicate the results of such consultations as may be held with the Rector of the United Nations University on the proposals of the consultant to associate UNITAR with the University;

(f) Proposals on ways and means to resolve the outstanding debt of UNITAR to the United Nations.

The report of the Secretrary-General should conclude with a set of specific proposals on the future of the Institute, taking into account the report of the consultant and such further guidance as the General Assembly may wish to give at its current session.

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# INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. James KEMBER (New Zealand)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations". At the same meeting, the Assembly decided to allocate the item to the Fourth Committee.

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 October, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 99, 101 and 12, and 103, on the understanding that individual proposals on matters covered by those items would be considered separately.

3. The Fourth Committee considered item 99 at its 7th to 14th meetings, between 15 and 29 October (see A/C.4/46/SR.7-14). The general debate on the items referred to above, including the present item, took place at the 8th to 14th meetings, between 18 and 29 October.

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 1991 and drew attention to chapter VII of the report of that Committee relating to item 99 (A/46/23 (Part IV)) 1/ containing,

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1/ To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

inter alia, the related draft resolution submitted by the Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee.

5. The Fourth Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General relating to the item (A/46/516).

6. At its 14th meeting, on 29 October, the Fourth Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in paragraph 9 of chapter VII of the report of the Special Committee (A/46/23 (Part IV)) by a recorded vote of 140 to none, with 3 abstentions (see para. 7). 2/ The voting was as follows: 3/

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

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2/ The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in explanation of vote.

3/ Subsequently, the representative of Italy announced that, owing to a malfunction of the voting machine, his delegation's affirmative vote had not been recorded.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations 4/ and the action taken by the Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 5/

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 45/16 of 20 November 1990, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;

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4/ A/46/23 (Part IV), chap. VII.

5/ A/46/516.

2. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. Requests the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

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